3.1 CONNECT:Direct

States agencies transmit Person, Case and Locate data using SSA's network and the CONNECT:Direct protocol. CONNECT:Direct is a data transfer software product which allows data centers within and across networks to send and receive large amounts of data using a mainframe-to-mainframe data exchange. The Person, Case and Locate Records that are transmitted to the FCR via CONNECT:Direct must be in the appropriate record format. Refer to Appendix G, "FCR Input Transaction Layouts", Appendix H, "FCR Output Transaction Layouts", and Appendix E, "Data Dictionary", for the record layouts and field descriptions.

The CONNECT:Direct software connects each state to SSA's National Computer Center (NCC), which houses the FCR. Each state has a copy of the CONNECT:Direct product to submit data using the SSA network. Each state has one data center within the network.

ACF has a formal agreement with the SSA, which allows states to send and receive data through SSA's existing network.

The basic element of CONNECT:Direct is a file transfer process. To initiate the transfer of data via CONNECT:Direct, a state must initiate predefined processes that consist of single 'COPY' statements or combinations of multiple statements separated by conditional logic. Processes can trigger transfers at a requested time under predetermined criteria. Six different activities may be specified in a process:

1. Move files among systems;
2. Submit jobs;
3. Execute programs;
4. Submit other processes;
5. Build and resolve symbolic values; and
6. Alter the sequence of process execution through conditional logic.

CONNECT:Direct has a checkpoint/restart feature. It eliminates the need to retransmit an entire file in the event of a transmission failure. If a transfer error occurs, the CONNECT:Direct software automatically restarts transmission at the most recent checkpoint. CONNECT:Direct also automatically generates on-line statistics for security, auditing and accounting purposes. This allows states to determine the usage of network resources and to determine how to improve network efficiency.

States must take the following steps to begin using the CONNECT:Direct network to transmit FCR data:

1. Identify the data center that is connected to the SSA CONNECT:Direct network.
2. Identify the person responsible for creating the CONNECT:Direct process to transmit data.
3. Determine the data center's CONNECT:Direct type (Hub, Spoke or Type-4 Spoke).

4. Distribute the appropriate CONNECT:Direct form and sample Job Control Language (JCL) to the CONNECT:Direct contact. Complete this form and submit it to the Federal technical liaison. Federal programmers use the information on this form to create the CONNECT:Direct processes. The sample JCL provides instructions to the programmer and supplies examples of how to create the necessary CONNECT:Direct process to submit FCR data.
5. Create the CONNECT:Direct processes (JCL) necessary to submit data to the FCR.
6. Contact the technical liaison to schedule a test to determine the success of submitting and receiving data from the FCR. A list of the technical liaisons is available through the FPLS Information Line or the OCSE's World Wide Web site. Refer to Chart 3-1, "CONNECT:Direct Technical Support," for the telephone number of the Information Line and the Web address.

3.1.1 SAMPLE SSA CONNECT:Direct REGISTRATION FORM

Figure 3-1, which follows, is a sample of the SSA CONNECT:Direct Registration Form. The instructions for completing the form are given in Section 3.1.2, "Data Transfer Request Form Instructions".

Figure 3-1: Data Transfer Request Form

DATA TRANSFER REQUEST
04/98

TO: DCOPC/BSPIB/UIT ____________________
FROM: ____________________
DATE: ____________________

Requestor's Name	Phone Number	Fax Number	Component

REASON FOR REQUEST: NEW FILE: ____________ CHANGE: ____________

DATA FLOW: INCOMING DATA: ________ OUTGOING DATA: ____________

IMPLEMENTATION DATE (Allow a 3 week lead time): ____________________

DATA TRANSFER METHOD:
CONNECT:Direct: ____________ BDTU: ____________ VISN: ____________

External CONNECT:Direct users submitting this request must provide their BatchID/UserID and the name and phone number of the ID owner.

BatchID/UserID: ____________ **Owner Name:** ____________
Owner Phone Number: ____________ **Owner Fax Number:** ____________

FILE CREATION
COMPLEX: PPF1__________ MISF __________
SITE NAME: ____________________
DATA SET NAME: ____________________
SIZE IN BYTES: ____________________
CREATING JOB NAME (if SSA application): ____________________

FILE DESTINATION
COMPLEX: PPF1__________ MISF __________
SITE NAME: ____________________
SERVER ADDRESS: Ring Number: ____________ Device Number: ____________
DATA SET NAME: ____________________

Will the receipt of this data set trigger a Control-M job? Please provide details in Special Instructions.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (include special device types, addresses, job triggers, etc.):

____
____
____
____
____
____

****** AFTS FILEWATCHER control information:

NOTE: This form must be completed for each data set that will be transmitted between the user and SSA. For the Federal Case Registry (FCR), there will be three (3) files processed: one sent from the states to SSA, a response/error file returned to the states from the FCR, and a 1099 response file sent to the states. A Data Transfer Request must be completed for the three (3) files, meaning the states will submit three (3) Data Transfer Request forms.

3.1.2 DATA TRANSFER REQUEST FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Provide the information as indicated below in the appropriate blanks on the form.

Requestor Information:

Name:	Provide the name of the person requesting the action.
Phone Number:	Provide the telephone number of the person requesting the action.
Fax Number:	Provide the fax number of the person requesting the action.
Component:	Provide the requestor's SSA component or agency equivalent.

Reason For The Request: Check the appropriate response. This should be NEW FILE or CHANGE only.

Data Flow: Indicate whether the file is incoming or outgoing. Incoming is a file sent from a user to SSA. Outgoing is a file sent from SSA to a user.

Implementation Date: Provide the expected date that the files are to be used in the Production environment. ***Please allow three weeks lead time. Lead time is needed for setup and testing (when applicable).***

Data Transfer Method: Indicate which file transfer product will be used to move data to/from SSA - select **CONNECT:Direct**. SSA recommends Point-of-Entry access method to allow proper security access to the Data Center. External users who are submitting the request form must include and identify the BatchID or UserID that will be used to submit their processes. Provide the name, telephone and fax number of the ID owner for contact purposes.

File Creation

Complex:	Provide the complex where the file is generated. If the request is from an external user (i.e., state or Federal agency or outside user) that user must provide the site name. For the FCR, the complex is PPF1.
Site Name:	If the request is from an external user (i.e., state or Federal agency or outside user) that user must provide the site name. This is the user's CONNECT:Direct Node Name.
Data Set Name:	Provide the exact data set name being transferred.
File Size in Bytes:	Provide the TOTAL file size in bytes – not the record length of the file. This number should be the estimated total amount of space the file will require.

Creating Job Name:	If the requestor is an internal user, the name of the application creating the file must be provided. External users need only provide their site name or CONNECT:Direct Node Name.

File Destination

Complex:	Provide the complex that will receive the file. If the receiving site is outside SSA, provide the site name and/or server address. For the FCR, the complex is PPF1.
Site Name:	If the receiving site is outside SSA, provide the site name and/or server address. This is the user's CONNECT:Direct Node Name.
Server Address:	If the receiving site is outside SSA, provide the site name and/or server address. The Server Address must include the ring number and device number.
Ring Number:	Provide the ring number of the file server that will receive the file.
Device Number:	Provide the device number.
Data Set Name:	Provide the exact data set name that the receiving site will receive.
Special Instructions:	Explain any special transmission or handling requirements (e.g., job or task triggering, special device address or name, DMBATCH use etc.).
AFTS FileWatcher Control Information:	If the AFTS File is using the FileWatcher utility, provide the necessary parameters for all statements needed for the file. The Scheduling Analyst Team (SAT) will code the statements for the rule file.

3.1.3 SAMPLE JCL FOR CONNECT:Direct

Figure 3-2, which follows, displays sample JCL that states may use for building the job that will transmit FCR data files to the SSA data center. Substitute the actual values for the CONNECT:Direct data set names. Other information may require modification to conform to each data center environment.

> Note that the date used in the '&RUNDATE' parameter must be six (6) digits in YYMMDD format. Due to SSA's system configuration, the FCR cannot accept a seven (7)-digit date, such as CYYMMDD. If the state has questions about the use of the '&RUNDATE', please contact the person in the state who is responsible for coordination of the state's use of CONNECT:Direct.

Figure 3-2: Sample JCL for CONNECT:Direct

SAMPLE JCL

```
//JOBSEND JOB
(OCSE,XYX),'FCRXMIT',CLASS=E,MSGCLASS=T,NOTIFY=XYX
//*
//DMBATCH EXEC PGM=DMBATCH,REGION=1M,PARM=(YYSLYNN)
//STEPLIB    DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.LOADLIB
//DMNETMPA   DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.NETMAP
//DMPUBLIB   DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.PROCESS.LIB
//DMMSGFIL   DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.MSG
//DMPRINT    DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSPRINT   DD  SYSOUT=*
//NDMCMDS    DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSUDUMP   DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSIN      DD *
 SIGNON
 SUBMIT   PROC=SENDFCR  NOTIFY=XYX   &RUNDATE=970820
 SIGNOFF
/*
//
```

Place the following process, SENDFCR, into the Partitioned Data Set (PDS) library referenced by the above DMPUBLIB DD statement. Substitute the agency or state name where the Snn appears. Substitute the CONNECT:Direct node Name for PNODE= .

```
SENDFCR   PROCESS  PNODE=NDM.SGA.Snn  SNODE=NDM.SSA.NCC
*
STEP1     SUBMIT   DSN=NDMNCC.Snn.PROCESS.LIB(FCRIN) -
          SUBNODE=SNODE  -
          &RDATE=&RUNDATE
```

3.1.4 CONNECT:Direct TECHNICAL SUPPORT

States can receive technical support regarding the CONNECT:Direct process and protocols. These resources include a telephone number that an agency can call to receive assistance for technical questions or problems, and the Web site address. Chart 3-1 shows the resources and how to contact the resources.

CHART 3-1: CONNECT:Direct TECHNICAL SUPPORT	
Resource	How to Contact Resource
FPLS Information Line	202.401.9267
World Wide Web Site	http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/
James Fox, CONNECT:Direct Coordinator	410.965.5634 410.966.7784 (fax) jfox@acf.hhs.gov

3.1.5 TRANSMISSION SITE

Each state must have only one CONNECT:Direct transmission site. All transactions for a state must come from the same site. States that have chosen to house their SCR for Non IV-D orders outside their statewide child support system must ensure that their IV-D and Non IV-D transmissions come from one CONNECT:Direct site, although states may choose to send IV-D cases and Non IV-D orders in separate transmissions or separate batches within a transmission.

3.2 SCR-To-FCR Transmission

Beginning October 1, 1998, each state must submit IV-D cases and Non-IV-D orders, including associated person information, to the FCR via CONNECT:Direct using the required formats. Appendix I, "Transaction Timeframes", defines the critical dates for capturing the required information. States may also submit FCR Queries and requests for Locate processing using the FCR beginning on October 1, 1998. OCSE intends to continue to operate the existing FPLS as an independent system for a period not yet determined or until all states have a full interface with the FCR. Part 4.0, "FCR Transactions,", and Appendix G, "FCR Input Transaction Layouts", present explanations of the formats for the submission of data to the FCR.

A state has the option of selecting its own schedule for transmission of data to the FCR. States may transmit data daily using CONNECT:Direct. The FCR is a batch system that executes on a daily basis, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. For a list of official Federal holidays, refer to Internet website: http://www.opm.gov/fedhol/index.asp. At the beginning of each cycle, the FCR collects the files that have been received via CONNECT:Direct since the last cycle.

In developing a schedule for transmission of data to the FCR, a state must consider many factors, such as the SCR batch window, the frequency of changes, etc. One less obvious, but very important, consideration is the need to ensure that the FCR reflects current information. The FCR Proactive Matching processes, described in Section 4.2.4, "FCR Proactive Match

Processing", uses the information that is submitted on a daily basis. It returns information to the submitting, and other, states about persons in interstate cases and newly received NDNH data for persons in IV-D cases on the FCR. To obtain the maximum benefit from this process, and to avoid unnecessary handling of out-of-date information, states should submit new and changed case or person information to the FCR in as timely a manner as possible. OCSE recommends that the state submit this information at least weekly. Daily submissions are encouraged to maintain an even transaction flow to the FCR. However, OCSE realizes that this may not be feasible for all SCRs.

3.3 FCR-To-SCR Transmission

The FCR sends four different types of transactions to the SCR. FCR input Proactive Match Responses are sent as a result of input transactions that have been received from the SCR. Locate Request Responses and FCR Query Responses are sent in response to a request from the state. Proactive Matching Transactions are automatically sent to the state. Chart 3-2 summarizes the records that are associated with the four transaction types and the associated time frames for FCR transmission of the transactions. Part 4.0, "FCR Transactions," and Appendix H, "FCR Output Transaction Layouts", present explanations of the formats of the data that is sent to the SCR.

CHART 3-2: FCR-TO-SCR TRANSMISSION DATA

Transaction Type	FCR Output Transaction	Timeframe
Input Acknowledge-ment Responses	FCR Case Acknowledgement/ Error Record FCR Person/Locate Request Acknowledgement/ Error Record FCR Query Acknowledgement/ Error Record	The initial Acknowledgement Records are returned to the state in an FCR Routine Batch Response within one business day of the receipt by the FCR of the input transactions from the state. Final acknowledgement, acceptance or rejection of records that are being held pending SSN verification, are sent when the SSN verification process is complete in the FCR Pending Resolution Batch Response. If during the SSN verification process, manual review or IRS-U is required to identify the SSN, the final acknowledgement may be delayed up to 30 days.
FCR Query Responses	FCR Query/Proactive Match Response Record	The Response Record is sent to the state within one business day of the receipt by the FCR of the input transactions from the state.

CHART 3-2: FCR-TO-SCR TRANSMISSION DATA		
Transaction Type	FCR Output Transaction	Timeframe
Locate Request Responses	FCR IRS-1099 Locate Response Record FCR Locate Response Record FCR NDNH Locate/ Proactive Match Record FCR SVES Locate Response Record	The state can expect to receive the results of IRS-1099 Locate Requests within 30 days from submission. The state can expect to receive the results of FPLS external Locate sources within three weeks. The results of the NDNH Locate Request are sent to the state within two business days of accepting the FCR Input Person/Locate Request Record for the Locate. The results of the SVES Locate Request are sent to the state within two business days of accepting the FCR Input Person/Locate Request Record for the Locate.
Proactive Match Processing Results	FCR Query/Proactive Match Response Record FCR NDNH Locate/ Proactive Match Record	The results of the FCR-to-FCR and FCR-to-NDNH Proactive Matching processes are sent to the state within two business days of the acceptance of the FCR Input Person/Locate Request Record for a person being added or, in certain situations, updated on the FCR. The results of the NDNH-to-FCR Proactive Matching are sent to the state within two business days of the acceptance of the new information on the NDNH.